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SWIFT

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS
THE VOYAGE TO LILLI-
PUT





GULLIVER'S TRAVELS.

THE VOYAGE TO LILLIPUT.

BY

DEAN SWIFT.



EDITED AND ADAPTED FOR USE IN SCHOOLS BY

ALBERT F. BLAISDELL.

OF "MEMORY QUOTATIONS," "SHAKESPEARE SPEAKS," "ESOPUS
ALBEN," "SKETCH-BOOK," "CHRISTMAS CAROL," ETC. ETC.

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INTRODUCTION.

JONATHAN SWIFT, one of the fiercest satirists that ever lived, was of English parentage, but was born in Dublin in the year 1667. Shortly before that event his father had died, leaving his mother in great poverty. Swift was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and later at Oxford, at the expense of his uncle. For a considerable time he acted as secretary to Sir William Temple, a relative of his own, who treated him as little better than a servant. Being of a proud and ambitious spirit, he groaned under this treatment, and could neither forgive nor forget it. He had already entered the Irish Church, and had got a poor living in his native country; but he often came over to England, where his society was much coveted by the great men of the day on account of his cleverness and wit. At first he joined the Whig party, and wrote strong papers in its defense, until finding it did not reward him sufficiently, he became a Tory, and wrote vehemently against his old friends and in favor of his new, with the hope of getting a bishopric at least; but after waiting for a while he received only the deanery of St. Patrick's, Dublin, and was therefore bitterly disappointed. On the accession of George I. the Whigs came into power again, and the Dean thought it advisable to go to Dublin and attend to his duties as a clergyman. Here he made himself popular with the Irish by writing a series of letters to the newspapers (signed *M. B. Drapier*) against the Whig Government for their treatment of Ireland, and more especially for allowing a certain William Wood to make bad copper money for circulation in that country.

His last years were very sad. He hated mankind in general, but he seems, nevertheless, to have cherished a strange love for a lady whom he named Stella, and whom he is said to have privately married. But he never lived in the same house with her, nor would he speak to her, save when there was a third person present. Her death affected him deeply, and, having lost many other friends, he became gloomy and sad. Latterly his mind gave way,

and during the last two years of his life he never spoke a word, seemingly unconscious of all that was passing about him. He died in 1745.

In judging the character and conduct of this extraordinary man, we should remember his peculiar temperament and his disordered brain. A man could not have been wholly bad whom Addison spoke of "as the most agreeable companion, the truest friend, the greatest genius of his times."

Swift was in person tall, strong, and well made, of a dark complexion, but with blue eyes, black and bushy eyebrows, and nose somewhat aquiline. He was never known to laugh; and, according to Sir Walter Scott, the description of Cassius, in Shakespeare's *Julius Cæsar*, might well be applied to him. In his personal habits he was scrupulously neat. He was master of all the rules of good breeding and politeness, yet he put on a rude bluntness of manner and strange independence of character that was not always understood or allowed. The strangeness and waywardness of his temper made him appear full of contradictions. Crabbed and ugly, yet his birthday was celebrated by bonfires by his zealous admirers. Stingy and eccentric in many of his ways of living, yet he dealt out his charities with a liberal and discerning spirit. He was as cordially hated by some as he was beloved by others. Many stories are told of his caustic wit and bitter satire. His style is remarkably strong, clear, and beautiful without affectation or ornament.

His best known writings are "Gulliver's Travels," "The Battle of the Books," and "A Tale of a Tub." The first of these was the most carefully finished of all his works, and is that on which his reputation as a writer now mainly rests. The style of this work is an admirable imitation of the plain, dry, and minute style of the old voyagers. The work consists of four voyages. *The Voyage to Lilliput* is for the most part a satire on the manners and usages of the Court of George I. *The Voyage to Brobdingnag* is a more extended satire on the politics of Europe generally. These two voyages are indisputably the most delightful parts of the book; and are read by most readers with great pleasure. The mere tales, with such admirable skill is an air of truth and reality thrown over the narrative.

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS.

The Voyages of Captain Lemuel Gulliver is indisputably Swift's greatest work. The idea of making fictitious travels the vehicle of satire as well as of amusement is at least as old as Lucian, but has never been carried into execution with such success, spirit, and originality as in this celebrated performance. The brevity, the minuteness, the homeliness, the unbroken seriousness of the narrative, all give a character of truth and simplicity to the work, which at once palliates the extravagance of the picture, and enhances the effect of those weighty reflections and cutting severities in which it abounds.

LORD JEFFREY.

A VOYAGE TO LILLIPUT.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.—In 1726 Swift published his most perfect satire called "Gulliver's Travels." In this famous book he describes the wonderful adventures of a ship's surgeon, Lemuel Gulliver, who is shipwrecked in a strange country called Lilliput, where the inhabitants are only six inches high, and every other object in proportion. On a second voyage, he visits the country of Brobdingnag, where the smallest dwarf is thirty feet high. The object of the satire is to show how contemptible and foolish are the vices and passions of mankind, and how contemptible human nature appears to the author. "Gulliver" was popular from the first. "Perhaps no work," says Sir Walter Scott, "ever exhibited such general attractions to all classes. It offered personal and political satire to the readers in high life, low and coarse incident to the uncultivated, marvels to the romantic, wit to the young and lively, lessons of morality and policy to the grave, and maxims of deep and bitter misanthropy to neglected age and disappointed ambition." Every child is charmed with the story, and it never fails to please even those who do not see, or do not care to see, the bitter satire which runs through the whole.

The first part, and perhaps the most pleasing, of Gulliver's Travels, is here adapted for use in schools. The editor has been obliged to abridge the text, but the utmost pains have been taken to keep the original wording of this great master of English, and to make a connected story. While it is not advisable to point out to young students all the historic references and the various persons that are satirized, yet a very few such points are necessary to a proper understanding of the text. All such references, however, may be easily omitted if the only object of the pupil is to read the "story." It is well to remember that as Swift uses some words in several senses, and sometimes in a sense that has gone out of use in our day, the meaning of a few such words may not be readily understood. Many of these words have been explained in the notes.

CHAPTER I.

THE AUTHOR GIVES SOME ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF AND FAMILY: HIS FIRST INDUCEMENTS TO TRAVEL—HE IS SHIPWRECKED.

1. My father had a small estate in Nottinghamshire; I was the third of five sons. He sent me to Emmanuel College in

Cambridge, at fourteen years old, where I resided three years, and applied myself close to my studies. But the charge of maintaining me (although I had a very scanty allowance) being too great for a narrow fortune, I was bound apprentice to Mr. James Bates, an eminent surgeon in London, with whom I continued four years. My father now and then sending me small sums of money, I laid them out in learning navigation, and other parts of the mathematics, useful to those who intend to travel, as I always believed it would be, some time or other, my fortune to do. When I left Mr. Bates, I went down to my father; where, by the assistance of him and my uncle John, and some other relations, I got forty pounds, and a promise of thirty pounds a year to maintain me at Leyden.¹ There I studied physic two years and seven months, knowing it would be useful to me in long voyages.

2. Soon after my return from Leyden, I was recommended by my good master, Mr. Bates, to be surgeon to the *Swallow*, Captain Abraham Pannell, commander; with whom I continued three years and a half, making a voyage or two into the Levant, and some other parts. When I came back I resolved to settle in London, to which Mr. Bates, my master, encouraged me; and by him I was recommended to several patients. I took part of a small house, and, being advised to alter my condition, I married Miss Mary Burton, second daughter to

The character of Gulliver is that of a thorough English sailor; his education at Leyden did not raise him too high above the rude tars with whom he mingled, and we always find his learning brought forward with difficulty and by an effort, while his mother-wit and sailor's courage are present in every emergency.

There is a sailor's bluntness and frankness in everything that Gulliver tells of himself and family; the occasional minuteness and even coarseness of the personal details are faithfully taken from the journals of the early English voyagers, whose accounts of their discoveries are strongly blended with the most trifling particulars respecting their food, clothing, etc.

1. Leyden.—A city of Holland, famous for its university and school of medicine.

Mr. Edmund Burton, hosier, in Newgate Street, with whom I received four hundred pounds for a portion.

3. But my good master Bates dying in two years after, and I having few friends, my business began to fail; for my conscience would not suffer me to imitate the bad practice of too many among my brethren. Having, therefore, consulted with my wife and some of my acquaintance, I determined to go again to sea. I was surgeon successively in two ships, and made several voyages, for six years, to the East and West Indies, by which I got some addition to my fortune. My hours of leisure I spent in reading the best authors, ancient and modern, being always provided with a good number of books; and, when I was ashore, in observing the manners and dispositions of the people, as well as learning their language; wherein I had a great facility, by the strength of my memory.

4. The last of these voyages not proving very fortunate, I grew weary of the sea, and intended to stay at home with my wife and family. I removed from the Old Jewry² to Fetter Lane, and from thence to Wapping, hoping to get business among the sailors; but it would not turn to account. After three years' expectation that things would mend, I accepted an advantageous offer from Captain William Prichard, master

Viewed as mere fiction, the account of Lilliput did not appear so extravagant in Swift's day as it does in ours. Every one has heard the story of a very learned man who, having read the *Voyage to Lilliput*, said that "there were some things in it which he could not believe."

After the publication of the *Travels*, Swift was much amused to find that Gulliver was a real name. Mr. Jonathan Gulliver was a well-known member of the General Court in the State of Massachusetts about this time. This worthy man deemed it necessary to disclaim all connection with Lemuel.

Swift and Defoe were unrivaled in the art of introducing trifling and minute circumstances which give an air of reality to their fictitious narrative. In Gulliver's early history, as in that of Robinson Crusoe, persons are casually mentioned of whom we hear nothing more. Gulliver's uncle, like Crusoe's brother, only comes on the stage to disappear again forever. This is quite contrary to the usual course of romance-writers.

2. Old Jewry, Fetter Lane, and Wapping were localities in London.

of the *Antelope*, who was making a voyage to the South Seas. We set sail from Bristol, the 4th of May, 1699, and our voyage at first was very prosperous.

5. It would not be proper, for some reasons, to trouble the reader with the particulars of our adventures in those seas; let it suffice to inform him, that in our passage from thence to the East Indies, we were driven by a violent storm to the north west of Van Diemen's Land³. By an observation, we found ourselves in the latitude of 30 degrees 2 minutes south. Twelve of our crew were dead by immoderate labor and ill food; the rest were in a very weak condition.

6. On the fifth day of November, which was the beginning of summer in those parts, the weather being very hazy, the seamen spied a rock within half a cable's length of the ship; but the wind was so strong, that we were driven directly upon it, and immediately split. Six of the crew, of whom I was one, having let down the boat into the sea, made a shift to get clear of the ship and the rock.

"Gulliver's Travels" was originally designed to form a part of a satire on the "Abuse of Human Learning," projected by Pope and Swift.

Swift himself thus announces the approaching appearance of the work in a letter to Pope, dated Dublin, Sept. 29, 1725: "I have employed my leisure time (besides dithing) in flushing, correcting, amending, and transcribing my travels, in four parts complete, newly augmented, and intended for the press when the world shall deserve them, or rather when a printer shall be found bold enough to venture his ears."

The existence of a race of pygmies was firmly believed in ancient times. The diminutive race is mentioned by Herodotus, Aristotle, Pliny, and even by some of the earlier modern travelers. Some old commentators on the Bible translated the word *seamuchto*, pygmies, and it is so rendered in the Vulgate. This circumstance tended greatly, no doubt, to confirm the popular belief in the existence of this fabulous race.

3 Van Diemen's Land. An island south of Australia now called Tasmania, in honor of Tasman, who discovered it in 1653. When Swift wrote, little was known of the South Seas, and he had therefore no difficulty in finding an unknown region for his islands.

CHAPTER II.

THE AUTHOR SWIMS FOR HIS LIFE; GETS SAFE ON SHORE IN THE COUNTRY OF LILLIPUT, WHERE HE IS MADE A PRISONER.

1. WE rowed, by my computation, about three leagues, till we were able to work no longer, being already spent with labor while we were in the ship. We therefore trusted ourselves to the mercy of the waves, and in about half an hour the boat was upset by a sudden flurry from the north. What became of my companions in the boat, as well as of those who escaped on the rock, or were left in the vessel, I cannot tell; but conclude they were all lost.

2. I swam as fortune directed me, and was pushed forward by wind and tide. I often let my legs drop, and could feel no bottom; but when I was almost gone, and able to struggle no longer, I found myself within my depth; and by this time the storm was much abated. The declivity was so small that I walked near a mile before I got to the shore, which I conjectured was about eight o'clock in the evening.

3. I then advanced forward¹ near half a mile, but could not discover any sign of houses or inhabitants; at least I was in so weak a condition that I did not observe them. I was extremely tired, and with that, and the heat of the weather, and about half a pint of brandy that I drank as I left the ship, I found myself much inclined to sleep. I lay down on the grass, which was very short and soft, where I slept sounder than ever I remembered to have done in my life.

4. I reckon that I slept about nine hours; for when I awaked, it was just daylight. I attempted to rise, but was not able to stir;—for, as I happened to lie on my back, I found my arms and legs were strongly fastened on each side to the

1. Forward is redundant, being included in the sense of *advanced*.

ground; and my hair, which was long and thick, tied down in the same manner.² I likewise felt several slender ligatures across my body, from my arm-pits to my thighs. I could only look upwards : the sun began to grow hot, and the light offended my eyes. I heard a confused noise about me; but in the posture I lay, could see nothing except the sky.

5. In a little time I felt something alive moving on my left leg, which, advancing gently forward over my breast, came almost up to my chin; when bending my eyes downward as much as I could, I perceived it to be a human creature not six inches high, with a bow and arrow in his hands, and a quiver at his back. In the mean time, I felt at least forty more of the same kind (as I conjectured) following the first. I was in the utmost astonishment, and roared so loud, that they all ran back in a fright; and some of them, as I was afterwards told, were hurt by the falls they got by leaping from my sides upon the ground. However, they soon returned, and one of them, who ventured so far as to get a full sight of my face, lifting up his hands and eyes by way of admiration,³ cried out in a shrill but distinct voice *Hekinah degul*: the others repeated the same words several times, but I then knew not what they meant.

6. I lay all this while, as the reader may believe, in great uneasiness. At length, struggling to get loose, I had the fortune to break the strings and wrench out the pegs that fastened my left arm to the ground. By lifting it up to my face, I discovered the methods they had taken to bind me; and, at the same time, with a violent pull, which gave me excessive pain, I a little loosened the strings that tied down my hair on the left side, so that I was just able to turn my head about two inches. But the creatures ran off a second time, before I could seize them; whereupon there was a great shout in a very shrill accent, and after it had ceased I heard one of them

2. This whole incident of the pygmies and of Gulliver being tied to the ground is taken from an old Greek writer.

3. Wonder; amazement. Used several times in this sense.

cry aloud, *Tolgo phonac*. Then, in an instant, I felt above a hundred arrows discharged on my left hand, which pricked me like so many needles; and besides, they shot another flight into the air, as we do bombs in Europe, whereof many, I suppose, fell on my body (though I felt them not), and some on my face, which I immediately covered with my left hand. When this shower of arrows was over, I felt a groaning with grief and pain; and then striving again to get loose, they discharged another volley larger than the first, and some of them attempted with spears to stick me in the sides; but by good luck I had on me a buff jerkin,⁴ which they could not pierce.

CHAPTER III.

THE AUTHOR'S TREATMENT (*continued*).

1. I THOUGHT it the most prudent method to lie still, and my design was to continue so till night, when, my left hand being already loose, I could easily free myself; and as for the inhabitants, I had reason to believe I might be a match for the greatest army they could bring against me, if they were all of the same size with him that I saw.

2. But fortune disposed otherwise of me. When the people observed I was quiet, they discharged no more arrows; but, by the noise I heard, I knew their numbers increased; and about four yards from me, over against my right ear, I heard a knocking for above an hour, like that of people at work. Turning my head that way, as well as the pegs and strings would permit me, I saw a stage erected about a foot and a half from the ground, capable of holding four of the inhabitants, with two or three ladders to mount it; from whence one of them, who seemed to be a person of quality, made me a long speech, whereof I understand not one syllable.¹

4. A jacket, a short coat.

1. Swift was at this time a Tory, and very bitter against the Whigs. He ridicules the Whig habit of appealing to the people, by representing his orator as making him a long speech, not one syllable of which he understood.

3. I should have mentioned that, before the principal person began his oration, he cried out three times, *Langro delul sun* (These words and the former were afterwards repeated and explained to me) Whereupon, immediately about fifty of the inhabitants came and cut the strings that fastened the left side of my head, which gave me the liberty of turning it to the right, and of observing the person and gesture² of him that was to speak. He appeared to be of a middle age, and taller than any of the three that attended him, whereof one was a page that held up his train, and seemed to be somewhat longer than my middle finger, the other two stood one on each side to support him. He acted every part of an orator, and I could observe many periods³ of threatenings, and others of promises, pity, and kindness.

4. I answered in a few words, but in the most submissive manner, lifting up my left hand and both my eyes to the sun, as calling him for a witness, and, being almost famished with hunger, not having eaten a morsel for some hours before I left the ship, I found the demands of nature so strong upon me that I could not forbear showing my impatience (perhaps against the strict rules of decency),⁴ by putting my finger frequently to my mouth, to signify that I wanted food. The *hurgo* (for so they call a great lord, as I afterwards learnt) understood me very well. He descended from the stage, and commanded that several ladders should be applied to my sides, on which above a hundred of the inhabitants mounted, and walked towards my mouth, laden with baskets full of meat, which had been provided and sent thither by the king's orders, upon the first intelligence he received of me.

5. I observed there was the flesh of several animals, but could not distinguish them by the taste. There were shoulders, legs, and loins, shaped like those of mutton, and very well dressed, but smaller than the wings of a lark. I ate

2 Outward appearance and bearing

3 Long, well-constructed sentences, so framed that we do not get complete sense until we reach the end

4 Propriety, fitness.

them by two or three at a mouthful, and took three loaves at a time, about the bigness of musket bullets. They supplied me as fast as they could, showing a thousand marks of wonder and astonishment at my bulk and appetite. I then made another sign that I wanted drink.

6. They found by my eating that a small quantity would not suffice me; and being a most ingenious people, they slung up, with great dexterity, one of their largest hogsheads, then rolled it towards my hand, and beat out the top. I drank it off at a draught, which I might well do, for it did not hold half a pint, and tasted like a small wine of Burgundy,⁵ but much more delicious. They brought me a second hogshead, which I drank in the same manner, and made signs for more; but they had none to give me.

CHAPTER IV.

GULLIVER IS TO BE CARRIED TO THE CAPITAL.

1. WHEN I had performed these wonders, they shouted for joy, and danced upon my breast. I confess I was often tempted, while they were passing backwards and forwards on my body, to seize forty or fifty of the first that came in my reach, and dash them against the ground. But the remembrance of what I had felt, which probably might not be the worst they could do, and the promise of honor I made them—for so I interpreted my submissive behavior—soon drove out these imaginations.¹ Besides, I now considered myself as bound by the laws of hospitality to a people who had treated me with so much expense and magnificence. However, in my thoughts I could not sufficiently wonder at the intrepidity of these diminutive mortals, who durst venture to mount and walk upon my body, while one of my hands was at liberty, without trembling

5. A province of France famous for its wine.

1. Thoughts ; temptations.

at the very sight of so prodigious a creature as I must appear to them.

2. After some time, when they observed that I made no more demands for meat, there appeared a person of high rank from his imperial majesty. His excellency, having mounted on the small of my right leg, advanced forwards up to my face, with about a dozen of his retinue, and producing his credentials under the signet royal,² which he applied close to my eyes, spoke about ten minutes without any signs of anger, but with a kind of determinate³ resolution; often pointing forwards, which, as I afterwards found, was towards the capital city about half a mile distant, whither it was agreed by his majesty in council⁴ that I must be conveyed. I answered in few words, but to no purpose, and made a sign with my hand that was loose, putting it to the other (but over his excellency's head for fear of hurting him or his train), and then to my own head and body, to signify that I desired my liberty.

3. It appeared that he understood me well enough, for he shook his head by way of disapprobation, and held his hand in a posture to show that I must be carried as a prisoner. However, he made other signs to let me understand that I should have meat and drink enough, and very good treatment. Whereupon I once more thought of attempting to break my bonds; but again, when I felt the smart of their arrows upon my face and hands, which were all in blisters, and many of the darts still sticking in them, and observing likewise that the number of my enemies increased, I gave tokens to let them know that they might do with me what they pleased.

4. Upon this, the *hurgo* and his train withdrew, with much civility and cheerful countenances. Soon after I heard a general shout, and I felt great numbers of people on my left side relaxing the cords to such a degree that I was able to turn

2. The royal seal.

3. Fixed, positive.

4. The king sitting in council with his ministers. In Swift's time it was usual for the monarch to preside at the council of his ministers; but George I. did not understand English, and therefore could not preside; and since his accession the prime-minister has presided.

upon my right side. But, before this, they had daubed my face and both my hands with a sort of ointment, very pleasant to the smell, which, in a few minutes, removed all the smart of their arrows. These circumstances, added to the refreshment I had received by their victuals^b and drink, which were very nourishing, disposed me to sleep. I slept about eight hours, as I was afterwards assured; and it was no wonder, for the physicians, by the emperor's orders, had mingled a sleepy potion in the hogsheads of wine.

5. It seems that upon the first moment I was discovered sleeping on the ground, after my landing, the emperor had early notice of it by an express; and determined in council that I should be tied in the manner I have related (which was done in the night while I slept); that plenty of meat and drink should be sent me, and a machine prepared to carry me to the capital city.

6. This resolution perhaps may appear very bold and dangerous, and I am confident would not be imitated by any prince in Europe on the like occasion. However, in my opinion it was extremely prudent, as well as generous; for, supposing these people had endeavored to kill me with their spears and arrows, while I was asleep, I should certainly have awaked with the first sense of smart, which might so far have aroused my rage and strength, as to have enabled me to break the strings wherewith I was tied; after which, as they were not able to make resistance, so they could expect no mercy.

CHAPTER V.

THE JOURNEY TO THE CAPITAL.

1. THESE people are most excellent mathematicians, and arrived to a great perfection in mechanics by the countenance¹

5. Spelled *vittles* by Swift.

1. Support, favor.

and encouragement of the emperor, who is a renowned patron of learning. This prince has several machines fixed on wheels, for the carriage of trees and other great weights. He often builds his largest men-of-war, whereof some are nine feet long, in the woods where the timber grows, and has them carried on these engines three or four hundred yards to the sea. Five hundred carpenters and engineers were immediately set at work to prepare the greatest engine they had. It was a frame of wood raised three inches from the ground, about seven feet long and four wide, moving upon twenty-two wheels. The shout I heard was upon the arrival of this engine, which it seems set out in four hours after my landing.

2. It was brought parallel to me, as I lay. But the principal difficulty was to raise and place me in this vehicle. Eighty poles, each of one foot high, were erected for this purpose, and very strong cords, of the bigness of packthread, were fastened by hooks to many bandages, which the workmen had girt round my neck, my hands, my body, and my legs. Nine hundred of the strongest men were employed to draw up these cords by many pulleys fastened on the poles; and thus, in less than three hours, I was raised and slung into the engine, and there tied fast. All this I was told; for while the operation was performing, I lay in a profound sleep, by the force of that soporiferous medicine infused into my liquor. Fifteen hundred of the emperor's largest horses, each about four inches and a half high, were employed to draw me towards the metropolis, which, as I said, was half a mile distant.

3. About four hours after we began our journey, I awaked by a very ridiculous accident; for the carriage being stopped a while, to adjust something that was out of order, two or three of the young natives had the curiosity to see how I looked when I was asleep. They climbed up into the engine, and advanced very softly to my face. One of them, an officer in the guards, put the sharp end of his half-pike a good way up into my left nostril, which tickled my nose like a straw, and made me sneeze violently; whereupon they stole off unperceived, and

it was three weeks before I knew the cause of my waking so suddenly.

4. We made a long march the remaining part of the day, and I rested at night with five hundred guards on each side of me, half with torches, and half with bows and arrows, ready to shoot me if I should offer to stir. The next morning at sunrise we continued our march, and arrived within two hundred yards of the city gates about noon. The emperor and all his court came out to meet us, but his great officers would by no means suffer his majesty to endanger his person by mounting on my body.

5. At the place where the carriage stopped there stood an ancient temple, esteemed² to be the largest in the whole kingdom; which, having been polluted some years before by an unnatural murder, was, according to the zeal of those people, looked upon as profane, and therefore had been applied to common use, and all the ornaments and furniture carried away. In this edifice it was determined I should lodge. The great gate fronting to the north was about four feet high, and almost two feet wide, through which I could easily creep. On each side of the gate was a small window, not above six inches from the ground; into that on the left side, the king's smith conveyed fourscore and eleven chains, like those that hang to a lady's watch in Europe, and almost as large, which were locked to my left leg with six-and-thirty padlocks.

CHAPTER VI.

THE EMPEROR OF LILLIPUT ATTENDED BY SEVERAL OF THE NOBILITY COMES TO SEE THE AUTHOR IN HIS CONFINEMENT—THE EMPEROR'S PERSON AND HABIT DESCRIBED.

1. OVER against this temple, on the other side of the great highway, at twenty feet distance, there was a turret at

2. Considered; thought to be. Usually means *valued*.

least five feet high. Here the emperor ascended with many principal lords of his court, to have an opportunity of viewing me, as I was told, for I could not see them. It was reckoned that above a hundred thousand inhabitants came out of the town upon the same errand; and in spite of my guards, I believe there could not be fewer than ten thousand who, at several times, mounted my body by the help of ladders. But a proclamation was soon issued to forbid it upon pain of death.

2. When the workmen found it was impossible for me to break loose, they cut all the strings that bound me; whereupon I rose up, with as melancholy a disposition as ever I had in my life. But the noise and astonishment of the people, at seeing me rise and walk, are not to be expressed. The chains that held my left leg were about two yards long, and gave me not only the liberty of walking backwards and forwards in a semicircle, but being fixed within four inches of the gate allowed me to creep in, and lie at my full length in the temple.

3. When I found myself on my feet, I looked about me, and must confess I never beheld a more entertaining prospect. The country around appeared like a continual garden; and the inclosed fields, which were generally forty feet square, resembled so many beds of flowers. These fields were intermingled with woods of half a stang¹; and the tallest trees, as I could judge, appeared to be seven feet high. I viewed the town on my left hand, which looked like the painted scene of a city in a theater.

4. The emperor descended from the tower, and advanced on horseback towards me, which had like to have cost him dear; for the beast, though very well trained, yet wholly unused to such a sight, which appeared as if a mountain moved before him, reared up on his hinder-feet; but that prince, who is an excellent horseman, kept his seat, till his attendants ran in and held the bridle while his majesty had time to dismount. When

1. A pole; $5\frac{1}{2}$ yards.

he alighted he surveyed me round with great admiration, but kept beyond the length of my chain. He ordered his cooks and butlers, who were already prepared, to give me victuals and drink, which they pushed forward in a sort of vehicle upon wheels, till I could reach them. I took these vehicles and soon emptied them all.

5. Twenty of them were filled with meat and ten with liquor—each of the former affording me two or three good mouthfuls; and I emptied the liquor of ten vessels, which was contained in earthen vials, into one vehicle, drinking it off at a draught; and so I did with the rest. The empress, and young princes of the blood of both sexes, attended by many ladies, sat at some distance in their chairs; but upon the accident that happened to the emperor's horse, they alighted, and came near his person, which I am now going to describe.²

6. He is taller, by almost the breadth of my nail, than any of his court, which is enough to strike an awe into the beholders. His features are strong and masculine, with an Austrian lip and arched nose; his complexion olive, his countenance erect, his body and limbs well proportioned, all his motions graceful, and his deportment majestic. He was then past his prime, being twenty-eight years and three quarters old, of which he had reigned about seven in great felicity, and generally victorious.

7. For the better convenience of beholding him I lay on my side, so that my face was parallel³ to his, and he stood but three yards off: however, I have had him since many times in my hand, and therefore cannot be deceived in the description. His dress was very plain and simple, and the fashion of it between the Asiatic and the European: but he had on his head a light helmet of gold, adorned with jewels, and a plume on the crest. He held his sword drawn in his hand to defend

2. There can be little room for doubting that in the description of the emperor of Lilliput, Swift dimly shadowed forth some of the leading traits in the character of George I.

3. Used in the sense of *horizontal*.

himself, if I should happen to break loose; it was almost three inches long; the hilt and scabbard were gold, enriched with diamonds. His voice was shrill, but very clear and articulate, and I could distinctly hear it when I stood up.

CHAPTER VII.

THE CURIOSITY OF THE PEOPLE, AND THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE COURT.

1. THE ladies and courtiers were all most magnificently clad; so that the spot they stood upon seemed to resemble a petticoat spread on the ground, embroidered with figures of gold and silver. His imperial majesty spoke often to me, and I returned answers; but neither of us could understand a syllable. There were several of his priests and lawyers present (as I conjectured by their habits), who were commanded to address themselves to me; and I spoke to them in as many languages as I had the least smattering of, but all to no purpose. After about two hours the court retired, and I was left with a strong guard, to prevent the impertinence and, probably, the malice of the rabble, who were very impatient to crowd about me as near as they durst; and some of them had the impudence to shoot their arrows at me, as I sat on the ground by the door of my house, whereof one very narrowly missed my left eye.

2. But the colonel ordered six of the ringleaders to be seized, and thought no punishment so proper as to deliver them bound into my hands; which some of his soldiers accordingly did, pushing them forwards with the butt-ends of their pikes into my reach. I took them all in my right hand, put five of them into my coat pocket, and, as to the sixth, I made a countenance as if I would eat him alive. The poor man squalled terribly, and the colonel and his officers were in much

pain, especially when they saw me take out my penknife. But I soon put them out of fear; for, looking mildly, and immediately cutting the strings he was bound with, I set him gently on the ground, and away he ran. I treated the rest in the same manner, taking them one by one out of my pockets; and I observed both the soldiers and people were highly delighted at this mark of my clemency, which was represented very much to my advantage at court.

3. Towards night I got with some difficulty into my house, where I lay on the ground, and continued to do so about a fortnight, during which time the emperor gave orders to have a bed prepared for me. Six hundred beds of the common measure were brought in carriages, and worked up in my house; a hundred and fifty of their beds, sewn together, made up in breadth and length; and these were four double, which, however, kept me but very indifferently from the hardness of the floor, that was of smooth stone. By the same computation, they provided me with sheets, blankets, and coverlets, tolerable enough for one who has been so long inured¹ to hardships.

4. As the news of my arrival spread through the kingdom, it brought prodigious numbers of rich, idle, and curious people to see me; so that the villages were almost emptied; and great neglect of tillage and household affairs must have ensued, if his imperial majesty had not provided, by several proclamations and orders of state, against this inconveniency. He directed that those who had already beheld me should return home, and not presume to come within fifty yards of my house without license from the court; whereby the secretaries of state got considerable fees.

5. In the mean time the emperor held frequent councils, to debate what course should be taken with me; and I was afterwards assured, by a particular friend, a person of great quality, who was as much in the secret as any, that the court was

1. Used, accustomed.

under many difficulties concerning me. They apprehended² my breaking loose; that my diet would be very expensive, and might cause a famine. Sometimes they determined to starve me, or at least to shoot me in the face and hands with poisoned arrows, which would soon dispatch me; but again they considered that the stench of so large a carcass might produce a plague in the metropolis, and probably spread through the whole kingdom.

CHAPTER VIII.

LEARNED MEN APPOINTED TO TEACH THE AUTHOR THEIR LANGUAGE — HE GAINS FAVOR BY HIS MILD DISPOSITION — HIS POCKETS ARE SEARCHED.

1. IN the midst of these consultations several officers of the army went to the door of the great council chamber; and two of them, being admitted, gave an account of my behavior to the six criminals above mentioned, which made so favorable an impression in the breast of his majesty and the whole board, in my behalf, that an imperial commission was issued out, obliging all the villages nine hundred yards round the city to deliver in every morning six beeves,¹ forty sheep, and other victuals for my sustenance, together with a proportionable quantity of bread and wine, and other liquors, for the due payment of which his majesty gave assignments² upon his treasury.

2. For this prince lives upon his own demesnes,³ seldom, except upon great occasions, raising any subsidies upon his subjects, who are bound to attend him in his wars at their own expense. An establishment was also made of six hundred persons to be my domestics, who had board-wages⁴ al-

2. Feared, dreaded.

1. Oxen.

2. Orders for payment.

3. Domain; his own land.

4. Wages out of which they had to find their own food.

lowed for their maintenance, and tents built for them very conveniently on each side of my door. It was likewise ordered that three hundred tailors should make me a suit of clothes, after the fashion of the country; that six of his majesty's greatest scholars should be employed to instruct me in their language; and lastly, that the emperor's horses, and those of the nobility and troops of guards, should be frequently exercised in my sight, to accustom themselves to me.

3. All these orders were duly executed, and in about three weeks I made a great progress in learning their language. During this time the emperor frequently honored me with his visits, and was pleased to assist my masters in teaching me. We began already to converse together in some sort, and the first words I learnt were to express my desire that he would be pleased to give me my liberty, which I every day repeated on my knees. His answer, as I could apprehend it, was, that this must be a work of time, not to be thought on without the advice of his council, and that first I must swear a peace with him and his kingdom: however, that I should be used with all kindness. He also advised me to acquire, by my patience and discreet behavior, the good opinion of himself and his subjects. He desired I would not take it ill if he gave orders to certain proper officers to search me, for probably I might carry about me several weapons, which must needs be dangerous things, if they answered the bulk of so prodigious a person.

4. I said that his majesty should be satisfied, for I was ready to strip myself, and turn up my pockets before him. This I delivered, part in words, and part in signs. He replied that, by the laws of the kingdom, I must be searched by two of his officers; that he knew this could not be done without my consent and assistance; and he had so good an opinion of my generosity and justice as to trust their persons in my hands; that whatever they took from me should be returned when I left the country, or paid for at the rate which I would set upon them. I took up the two officers in my hands, put

them first into my coat-pockets, and then into every other pocket about me, except my two fobs and another secret pocket. I had no mind these should be searched, as I had in them some little necessaries that were of no consequence to any but myself. In one of my fobs there was a silver watch, and in the other a small quantity of gold in a purse. These gentlemen, having pen, ink, and paper about them, made an exact inventory of everything they saw, and when they had done, desired I would set them down, that they might deliver it to the emperor.

CHAPTER IX.

GULLIVER'S SWORD AND PISTOLS TAKEN FROM HIM.

1. WHEN this inventory was read over to the emperor, he directed me, although in very gentle terms, to deliver up the several particulars.¹ He first called for my cimiter,² which I took out, scabbard and all. In the mean time he ordered three thousand of his choicest troops (who then attended him) to surround me at a distance, with their bows and arrows just ready to discharge; but I did not observe it, for mine eyes were wholly fixed upon his majesty. He then desired me to draw my cimiter, which, although it had got some rust by the sea-water, was, in most parts, exceeding bright. I did so, and immediately all the troops gave a shout between terror and surprise; for the sun shone clear, and the reflection dazzled their eyes, as I waved the cimiter to and fro in my hand. His majesty, who is a most magnanimous prince, was less daunted than I could expect; he ordered me to return it into the scabbard, and cast it on the ground as gently as I could, about six feet from the end of my chain.

1. Articles specified.

2. A broad curved sword.

2. The next thing he demanded was one of the hollow iron pillars, by which he meant my pocket pistols. I drew it out, and at his desire, as well as I could, expressed to him the use of it. Then charging it only with powder, which, by the closeness of my pouch, happened to escape wetting in the sea (an inconvenience against which all prudent mariners take special care to provide), I first cautioned the emperor not to be afraid, and then I let it off in the air. The astonishment here was much greater than at the sight of the cimiter. Hundreds fell down as if they had been struck dead; and even the emperor, although he stood his ground, could not recover himself for some time. I delivered up both my pistols in the same manner as I had done my cimiter, and then my pouch of powder and bullets, begging him that the former might be kept from fire, for it would kindle with the smallest spark, and blow up his imperial palace into the air.

3. I likewise delivered up my watch. The emperor was very curious to see it, and commanded two of his tallest yeomen^s of the guards to bear it on a pole upon their shoulders, as draymen in England do a barrel of ale. He was amazed at the continual noise it made, and the motion of the minute hand, which he could easily discern; for their sight is much more acute than ours. He asked the opinions of his learned men about it, which were various and remote, as the reader may well imagine without my repeating; although, indeed, I could not very perfectly understand them. I then gave up my silver and copper money, my purse with nine large pieces of gold, and some smaller ones; my knife and razor, my comb and silver snuff-box, my handkerchief and journal-book. My cimiter, pistols, and pouch were conveyed in carriages to his majesty's stores; but the rest of my goods were returned me.

4. I had, as I before observed, one private pocket, which escaped their search, wherein there was a pair of spectacles (which I sometimes use for the weakness of mine eyes), a

3. Farmers who own the land they till. A title given to soldiers because of their manly bearing.

pocket perspective,⁴ and some other little conveniences, which, being of no consequence to the emperor, I did not think myself bound in honor to discover, and I apprehended they might be lost or spoiled if I ventured them out of my possession.

CHAPTER X.

THE DIVERSIONS OF THE COURT.

1. MY gentleness and good behavior gained so far on the emperor and his court, and indeed upon the army and people in general, that I began to conceive hopes of getting my liberty in a short time. I took all possible methods to cultivate this favorable disposition. The natives came, by degrees, to be less apprehensive of any danger from me. I would sometimes lie down, and let five or six of them dance on my hand; and at last the boys and girls would venture to come and play at hide-and-seek in my hair. I had now made a good progress in understanding and speaking the language. The emperor had a mind one day to entertain me with several of the country shows, wherein they exceeded all nations I have known, both for dexterity and magnificence. I was diverted with none so much as that of the rope-dancers, performed upon a slender white thread, extending about two feet and twelve inches from the ground. Upon which I shall desire liberty, with the reader's patience, to enlarge a little.

2. This diversion is only practiced by those persons who are candidates for great employments and high favor at court. They are trained in this art from their youth, and are not always of noble birth or liberal education. When a great office is vacant, either by death or disgrace (which often happens), five or six of those candidates petition the emperor to entertain his majesty and the court with a dance on the rope;

4. Telescope.

and whoever jumps the highest, without falling, succeeds in the office. Very often the chief ministers themselves are commanded to show their skill, and to convince the emperor that they have not lost their faculty. Flimnap, the treasurer, is allowed to cut a caper on the straight rope, at least an inch higher than any other lord in the whole empire. I have seen him do the summerset¹ several times together, upon a trencher fixed on a rope which is no thicker than a common pack-thread in England. My friend Reldresal, principal secretary for private affairs, is, in my opinion, if I am not partial, the second after the treasurer; the rest of the great officers are much upon a par.

3. These diversions are often attended with fatal accidents, whereof great numbers are on record. I myself have seen two or three candidates break a limb. But the danger is much greater, when the ministers themselves are commanded to show their dexterity; for, by contending to excel themselves and their fellows, they strain so far that there is hardly one of them who has not received a fall, and some of them two or three. I was assured that, a year or two before my arrival, Flimnap² would infallibly have broken his neck, if one of the king's cushions that accidentally lay on the ground had not weakened the force of his fall.

CHAPTER XI.

THE DIVERSIONS OF THE COURT CONTINUED.

1. THERE is likewise another diversion, which is only shown before the emperor and empress and the first minister upon particular occasions. The emperor lays on the table three

1. Summersault.

2. By "Flimnap" reference is made to Sir Robert Walpole, towards whom Swift felt the bitterest enmity, and to whom, therefore, he is very unjust. Dr. Johnson, a stanch Tory, says of Walpole: "He was the best Minister this country ever had, for he would have kept it in perpetual peace if we [the Tories] would have let him."

fine silken threads¹ of six inches long; one is blue, another red, and the third green. These threads are proposed as prizes for those persons whom the emperor has a mind to distinguish by a peculiar mark of his favor. The ceremony is performed in his majesty's great chamber of state, where the candidates are to undergo a trial of dexterity, very different from the former, and such as I have not observed the least resemblance of in any other country of the New or Old World. The emperor holds a stick in his hands, both ends parallel to the horizon, while the candidates advancing, one by one, sometimes leap over the stick, sometimes creep under it, backward and forward, several times, according as the stick is advanced or depressed.

2. Sometimes the emperor holds one end of the stick, and his first minister the other; sometimes the minister has it entirely to himself. Whoever performs his part with the most agility, and holds out the longest in leaping and creeping, is rewarded with the blue-colored silk; the red is given to the next, and the green to the third, which they all wear girt twice round about the middle; and you see few great persons about this court who are not adorned with one of these girdles.

3. The horses of the army and those of the royal stables, having been daily led before me, were no longer shy, but would come up to my very feet without starting. The riders would leap them over my hand, as I held it on the ground; and one of the emperor's huntsmen, upon a large courser, took² my foot, shoe and all; which was indeed a prodigious leap.

4. I had the good fortune to divert the emperor one day after a very extraordinary manner. I desired he would order several sticks of two feet high, and the thickness of an ordinary cane, to be brought me; whereupon his majesty commanded the master of his woods to give directions accordingly; and the next morning six woodmen arrived, with as many car-

1. Referring to the three principal orders of knighthood: *blue* ribbon, the Garter; *red* ribbon, the Bath; *green* ribbon, the Thistle. Walpole received the Bath in 1724, and the Garter in 1726.

2. Leaped over.

riages, drawn by eight horses to each. I took nine of these sticks, and fixing them firmly in the ground in a quadrangular figure, two feet and a half square, I took four other sticks, and tied them parallel³ at each corner, about two feet from the ground; then I fastened my handkerchief to the nine sticks that stood erect; and extended it on all sides, till it was tight as the top of a drum; and the four parallel sticks, rising about five inches higher than the handkerchief, served as ledges on each side.

5. When I had finished, I desired the emperor to let a troop of his best horse, twenty-four in number, come and exercise on this plain. His majesty approved of the proposal, and I took them up, one by one, in my hands, ready mounted and armed, with the proper officers to exercise them. As soon as they got into order, they divided into two parties, performed mock skirmishes, discharged blunt arrows, drew their swords, fled and pursued, attacked and retired, and, in short, discovered the best military discipline I ever beheld. The parallel sticks secured them and their horses from falling over the stage; and the emperor was so much delighted, that he ordered this entertainment to be repeated several days, and once was pleased to be lifted up, and give the word of command. With great difficulty, he persuaded even the empress herself to let me hold her in her close chair⁴ within two yards of the stage, whence she was able to get a full view of the whole performance.

6. It was my good fortune that no ill accident happened in these entertainments; only once a fiery horse that belonged to one of the captains, pawing with his hoof, struck a hole in my handkerchief, and, his foot slipping, he overthrew his rider and himself; but I immediately relieved them both, and covering the hole with one hand, I set down the troop with the other, in the same manner as I took them up. The horse that

3. Tied them at each corner of the square, so that they were horizontal or parallel with the ground.

4. A closed sedan; a vehicle borne by men.

fell was strained in the left shoulder, but the rider got no hurt; and I repaired my handkerchief as well as I could; however, I would not trust to the strength of it any more in such dangerous enterprises.

CHAPTER XII.

THE AUTHOR'S HAT FOUND—HE IS PROMISED HIS LIBERTY.

1. ABOUT two or three days before I was set at liberty, as I was entertaining the court with this kind of feats, there arrived an express to inform his majesty that some of his subjects, riding near the place where I was first taken up, had seen a great black substance lying on the ground, very oddly shaped, extending its edges round, as wide as his majesty's bed chamber, and rising up in the middle as high as a man. That it was no living creature, as they at first apprehended, for it lay on the grass without motion, and some of them had walked round it several times; that by mounting upon each other's shoulders, they had got to the top, which was flat and even, and, stamping upon it, they found that it was hollow within; that they humbly conceived that it might be something belonging to the man mountain; and if his majesty pleased, they would undertake to bring it with only five horses. I presently knew what they meant, and was glad at heart to receive the intelligence.

2. It seems that, upon my first reaching the shore after our shipwreck, I was in such confusion that before I came to the place where I went to sleep, my hat which I had fastened with a string to my head while I was rowing, and had stuck on all the time I was swimming, fell off after I came to land. The string, as I conjectured, broke by some accident, which I never observed, but thought my hat had been lost at sea. I entreated his imperial majesty to give orders it might be brought to me as soon as possible, describing to him the use and the nature of it. and the next day the wagoners arrived with it,

but not in a very good condition. They had bored two holes in the brim, within an inch and a half of the edge, and fastened two hooks in the holes; these hooks were tied by a long cord to the harness, and thus my hat was dragged along for above half an English mile; but, the ground in that country being extremely smooth and level, it received less damage than I expected.

3. Two days after this adventure, the emperor, having ordered that part of his army which quarters in and about his metropolis to be in readiness, took a fancy of diverting himself in a very singular manner. He desired I would stand like a colossus,¹ with my legs as far asunder as I conveniently could. He then commanded his general (who was an old experienced leader, and a great patron of mine) to draw up the troops in close order, and march them under me: the foot by twenty-four abreast, and the horse by sixteen, with drums beating, colors flying, and pikes advanced. This body consisted of about three thousand foot and a thousand horse.

4. I had sent so many memorials and petitions for my liberty that his majesty at length mentioned the matter, first in the cabinet² and then in a full council,³ where it was opposed by none, except Skyresh Bolgolam,⁴ who was pleased, without any provocation, to be my mortal enemy. But it was carried against him by the whole board, and confirmed by the emperor. That minister was admiral of the realm, very much in his master's confidence, and a person well versed in affairs, but of a morose and sour complexion.

5. However, he was at length persuaded to comply, but prevailed that the articles and conditions upon which I should be set free, and to which I must swear, should be drawn up by

1. A huge brazen statue which bestrode the entrance to the harbor of Rhodes so that vessels had to pass between its legs. Swift here ridicules the passion of George I. for military reviews.

2. The Ministry; a small council consisting of about fourteen chief ministers.

3. The whole body of those selected to advise the sovereign; the privy council of about 200 persons.

4. This is supposed to satirize the Duke of Argyle, who was greatly incensed at Swift's attacks on the Scottish nation.

himself. The articles were brought to me by Skyresh Bolgolam in person, attended by two under-secretaries and several persons of distinction. After they were read I was commanded to swear to the performance of them, first in the manner of my own country, and afterwards in the method prescribed by their laws, which was to hold my right foot in my left hand, and to place the middle finger of my right hand on the crown of my head, and my thumb on the tip of my right ear.

CHAPTER XIII.

MILDENDO, THE METROPOLIS OF LILLIPUT, DESCRIBED, TOGETHER WITH THE EMPEROR'S PALACE.

6. THE first request I made, after I had obtained my liberty, was that I might have license to see Mildendo, the metropolis; which the emperor easily granted me, but with a special charge to do no hurt either to the inhabitants or their houses. The people had notice, by proclamation, of my design to visit the town. The wall which encompassed it is two feet and a half high, and at least eleven inches broad, so that a coach and horses may be driven very safely round it, and it is flanked with strong towers at ten feet distance.

7. I stepped over the western gate, and passed very gently and sideling through the two principal streets only in my short waistcoat, for fear of damaging the roofs and eaves of the houses with the skirts of my coat. I walked with the utmost circumspection, to avoid treading on any stragglers who might remain in the streets, although the orders were very strict that all people should keep in their houses at their own peril. The garret windows and tops of houses were so crowded with spectators that I thought in all my travels I had not seen a more populous place.

8. The city is an exact square, each side of the wall being five hundred feet long. The two great streets, which run

across and divide it into four quarters, are five feet wide. The lanes and alleys, which I could not enter, but only viewed them as I passed, are from twelve to eighteen inches wide. The town is capable of holding five hundred thousand souls; the houses are from three to five stories; the shops and markets well provided.

9. The emperor's palace is in the center of the city, where the two great streets meet. It is inclosed by a wall of two feet high, and twenty feet distance from the buildings. I had his majesty's permission to step over this wall; and, the space being so wide between that and the palace, I could easily view it on every side. The outward court is a square of forty feet, and includes two other courts: in the inmost are the royal apartments, which I was very desirous to see, but found it extremely difficult; for the great gates, from one square into another, were but eighteen inches high and seven inches wide. Now the buildings of the outer court were at least five feet high, and it was impossible for me to stride over them without infinite damage to the pile, though the walls were strongly built of hewn stone, and four inches thick.

10. At the same time the emperor had a great desire that I should see the magnificence of his palace; but this I was not able to do till three days after, which I spent in cutting down with my knife some of the largest trees in the royal park, about a hundred yards' distance from the city. Of these trees I made two stools, each about three feet high, and strong enough to bear my weight. The people having received notice a second time, I went again through the city to the palace with my stools in my hands. When I came to the side of the outer court I stood upon one stool and took the other in my hand; this I lifted over the roof, and gently set it down on the space between the first and second court, which was eight feet wide.

11. I then stepped over the building very conveniently from one stool to the other, and drew up the first after me with a

hooked stick. By this contrivance I got into the inmost court; and, lying down upon my side, I applied my face to the windows of the middle stories, which were left open on purpose, and discovered the most splendid apartments that can be imagined. There I saw the empress¹ and the young princes in their several lodgings, with their chief attendants about them. Her imperial majesty was pleased to smile very graciously upon me, and gave me out of the window her hand to kiss.

CHAPTER XIV.

A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE AUTHOR AND A PRINCIPAL SECRETARY CONCERNING THE AFFAIRS OF THE EMPIRE.

1. I RESERVE further descriptions of this kind for a greater work, which is now almost ready for the press. It will contain a general description of this empire from its first erection, through a long series of princes; with a particular account of their wars and politics, laws, learning, and religion; their plants and animals; their peculiar manners and customs; and other matters very curious and useful. My chief design at present is to relate such events and transactions as happened to the public or to myself during a residence of about nine months in that island.

2. One morning, about a fortnight after I had obtained my liberty, Reldresal, principal secretary for private affairs (as they style him), came to my house attended only by one servant. He ordered his coach to wait at a distance, and desired I would give him an hour's audience; which I readily consented to on account of his quality and personal merits, as well as of the many good offices he had done me during my solicitations at court. I offered to lie down, that he might

1. The Empress of Lilliput represents Queen Anne, who had a polite and gracious manner. She was a good wife, mother, and friend; but she was weak and indolent, and had little genius for ruling a great people.

the more conveniently reach my ear; but he chose rather to let me hold him in my hand during our conversation.

3. He began with compliments on my liberty, and said that he might pretend to some merit in it; but, however, added that if it had not been for the present situation of things at court, perhaps I might not have obtained it so soon. “For,” said he, “as flourishing a condition as we may appear to be in to foreigners, we labor under two mighty evils—a violent faction at home, and the danger of an invasion by a most potent enemy from abroad. As to the first, you are to understand that for above seventy moons past there have been two struggling parties in this empire, under the names of *Tramecksan*¹ and *Slamecksan*, from the high and low heels of their shoes, by which they distinguish themselves.

4. “It is alleged that the high heels are most agreeable to our ancient constitution; but, however this be, his majesty has determined to make use only of low heels in the administration of the government and of all offices in the gift of the crown, as you cannot but observe. His majesty’s imperial heels are lower by the fourteenth part of an inch than those of any of his court. The animosities between these two parties run so high that they will neither eat nor drink nor talk with each other. We compute the *Tramecksan*, or high heels, to exceed us in number; but the power is wholly on our side. We apprehend his imperial highness, the heir to the crown,² to have some tendency towards the high heels; at least, we can plainly discover that one of his heels is higher than the other, which gives him a hobble in his gait.

5. “In the midst of these intestine disquiets, we are threatened with an invasion from the island of Blefuscu,³ which is

1. The satire is directed to the Whigs and Tories, then bitterly opposed to each other on the subject of the Pretender and on the doctrine of passive obedience.

2. The reference is to the Prince of Wales, afterwards George II. He was opposed to the Ministry, and received at his court the discontented of both parties—Whig and Tory—so that it was matter of doubt which party he really intended to favor: “there was a hobble in his gait.”

3. Blefuscu represents France, and *Lilliput* England; but the application is somewhat disguised by making Lilliput the continent, and Blefuscu an

the other great empire of the universe, almost as large and powerful as this of his majesty. For as to what we have heard you affirm, that there are other kingdoms and states in the world inhabited by human creatures as large as yourself, our philosophers are in much doubt, and would rather conjecture that you dropped from the moon, or one of the stars; because it is certain that a hundred mortals of your bulk would in a short time destroy all the fruits and cattle of his majesty's dominions: besides, our histories of six thousand moons make no mention of any other regions than the two great empires of Lilliput and Blefuscu."

CHAPTER XV.

RELDRESAL CONTINUES HIS ACCOUNT OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE EMPIRE, AND THE AUTHOR OFFERS TO SERVE THE EMPEROR IN HIS WARS.

1. "THESE two mighty powers have, as I was going to tell you, been engaged in a most desperate war for six-and-thirty moons past. It began upon the following occasion: it is allowed on all hands that the primitive way of breaking eggs before we eat them was upon the larger end; but his present majesty's grandfather, while he was a boy, going to eat an egg, and breaking it according to the ancient practice, happened to cut one of his fingers;¹ whereupon the emperor, his father, published an edict, commanding all his subjects, under great penalties, to break the smaller end of their eggs. The people so highly resented this law, that our histories tell us there have been six rebellions raised on that account; wherein one emperor lost his life² and another his crown.³

island. Perhaps Swift did not think it safe to ridicule the King and Government more openly.

1. King Henry VIII.

2. King Charles I.

3. King James II.

2. "These civil commotions were constantly fomented by the monarchs of Blefuscu; and when they were quelled, the exiles always fled for refuge to that empire. It is computed that eleven thousand persons have at several times suffered death, rather than submit to break their eggs at the smaller end. Many hundred large volumes have been published upon this controversy.

3. "During the course of these troubles, the emperors of Blefuscu did frequently expostulate by their ambassadors, accusing us of making a schism⁴ in religion, by offending against a fundamental doctrine of our great prophet Lustrog. This, however, is thought to be a mere strain upon the text; for the words of the prophet are these: *that all true believers break their eggs at the convenient end*; and which is the convenient end seems, in my humble opinion, to be left to every man's conscience, or at least in the power of the chief magistrate to determine.

4. "Now, the exiles have found so much credit in the emperor of Blefuscu's court, and so much private assistance and encouragement from their party here at home, that a bloody war has been carried on between the two empires for six-and-thirty moons, with various success: during which time we have lost forty capital ships, and a much greater number of smaller vessels, together with thirty thousand of our best seamen and soldiers; and the damage received by the enemy is reckoned to be somewhat greater than ours. However, they have now equipped a numerous fleet, and are just preparing to make a descent upon us; and his imperial majesty, placing great confidence in your valor and strength, has commanded me to lay this account of his affairs before you."

5. I desired the secretary to present my humble duty to the emperor; and to let him know that I thought it would not become me, who was a foreigner, to interfere with parties; but I was ready, with the hazard of my life, to defend his person and state against all invaders.

4. A division in the church.

6. The empire of Blefuscu is an island situated to the north-east of Lilliput, from which it is parted only by a channel of eight hundred yards wide. I had not yet seen it, and upon this notice of an intended invasion, I avoided appearing on that side of the coast, for fear of being discovered by some of the enemy's ships, who had received no intelligence of me; all intercourse between the two empires having been strictly forbidden during the war, upon pain of death, and an embargo laid by our emperor upon all vessels whatsoever. I communicated to his majesty a project I had formed of seizing the enemy's whole fleet; which, as our scouts assured us, lay at anchor in the harbor, ready to sail with the first fair wind.

7. I consulted the most experienced seamen upon the depth of the channel, which they had often plumbed; who told me that in the middle at high-water it was seventy *glumgluffs* deep, which is about six feet of European measure; and the rest of it fifty *glumgluffs* at most. I walked towards the north-east coast, over against Blefuscu; where, lying down behind a hillock, I took out my small perspective-glass, and viewed the enemy's fleet at anchor, consisting of about fifty men-of-war and a great number of transports. I then came back to my house.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE AUTHOR, BY AN EXTRAORDINARY STRATAGEM, PREVENTS AN INVASION.—A HIGH TITLE OF HONOR IS CONFERRED UPON HIM.

1. THE next day I gave order for a great quantity of the strongest cable and bars of iron. The cable was about as thick as pack-thread, and the bars of the length and size of a knitting-needle. I trebled the cable to make it stronger, and for the same reason I twisted three of the iron bars together, bending the extremities into a hook. Having thus fixed fifty

hooks to as many cables, I went back to the north-east coast, and putting off my coat, shoes, and stockings, walked into the sea, in my leathern jerkin, about half an hour before high water. I waded with what haste I could, and swam in the middle about fifty yards, till I felt ground.

2. I arrived at the fleet in less than half an hour. The enemy were so frightened when they saw me that they leaped out of their ships and swam to the shore, where there could not be fewer than thirty thousand souls; I then took my tackling, and fastening a hook to a hole at the prow of each, I tied all the cords together at the end. While I was thus employed, the enemy discharged several thousand arrows, many of which stuck in my hands and face; and, beside the excessive smart, gave much disturbance in my work.

3. My greatest apprehension was for mine eyes, which I should have infallibly lost, if I had not suddenly thought of an expedient. I kept, among other little necessities, a pair of spectacles in a private pocket, which, as I have observed before, had escaped the emperor's searchers. These I took out and fastened as strongly as I could upon my nose, and thus armed went on boldly with my work, in spite of the enemy's arrows, many of which struck against the glasses of my spectacles, but without any other effect, farther than a little to discompose them.

4. I had now fastened all the hooks; and, taking the knot in my hand, began to pull, but not a ship would stir, for they were all too fast held by their anchors, so that the boldest part of my enterprise remained. I therefore let go the cord, and leaving the hooks fixed to the ships, I resolutely cut with my knife the cables that fastened the anchors, receiving about two hundred arrows in my face and hands; then I took up the knotted end of the cables, to which my hooks were tied, and with great ease drew fifty of the enemy's largest men-of-war after me.

5. The Blefuscudians, who had not the least imagination of what I intended, were at first confounded with astonishment.

They had seen me cut the cables, and thought my design was only to let the ships run adrift, or fall foul of each other; but when they perceived the whole fleet moving in order, and saw me pulling at the end, they set up such a scream of grief and despair as it is almost impossible to describe or conceive.

6. When I had got out of danger, I stopped a while to pick out the arrows that stuck in my hands and face; and rubbed on some of the same ointment that was given me at my first arrival, as I have formerly mentioned. I then took off my spectacles, and waiting about an hour, till the tide was a little fallen, I waded through the middle with my cargo, and arrived safe at the royal port of Lilliput.

7. The emperor and his whole court stood on the shore, expecting the issue of this great adventure. They saw the ships move forward in a large half moon, but could not discern me, who was up to my breast in water. When I advanced in the middle of the channel, they were yet more in pain, because I was under water to my neck. The emperor concluded me to be drowned, and that the enemy's fleet was approaching in a hostile manner, but he was soon eased of his fears; for the channel growing shallower at every step I made, I came in a short time within hearing, and holding up the end of the cable, by which the fleet was fastened, I cried in a loud voice, "Long live the most puissant king of Lilliput!" This great prince received me at my landing with all possible encomiums, and created me a *nardar* upon the spot, which is the highest title of honor among them.¹

¹ The capture of the fleet refers to the great increase in the naval power of England, which resulted from the peace of Utrecht, 1713. The victories of Marlborough had brought France very low, and some persons wished the war to be carried on till France was completely subdued.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE AUTHOR'S MANNER OF LIVING IN LILLIPUT.

1. HERE it may perhaps divert the curious reader if I give some account of my domestics, and of my manner of living in this country, during a residence of nine months and thirteen days. Having a head mechanically turned, and being likewise forced by necessity, I had made for myself a table and chair convenient enough out of the largest trees in the royal park. Two hundred sempstresses were employed to make me shirts and linen for my bed and table, all of the strongest and coarsest kind they could get, which, however, they were forced to quilt together in several folds, for the thickest was some degrees finer than lawn.

2. Their linen is usually three inches wide, and three feet make a piece. The sempstresses took my measure as I lay on the ground, one standing at my neck and another at my mid-leg, with a strong cord extended, that each held by the end, while a third measured the length of the cord with the rule of an inch long. Then they measured my right thumb, and desired no more; for by a mathematical computation, that twice round the thumb is once round the wrist, and so on to the neck and the waist, and by the help of my old shirt, which I displayed on the ground before them for a pattern, they fitted me exactly.

3. Three hundred tailors were employed in the same manner to make me clothes; but they had another contrivance for taking my measure. I kneeled down and they raised a ladder from the ground to my neck; upon this ladder one of them mounted, and let fall a plumb-line from my collar to the floor, which just answered the length of my coat; but my waist and arms I measured myself. When my clothes were finished, which was done in my house (for the largest of theirs would not have

been able to hold them), they looked like the patchwork made by the ladies in England, only that mine were all of a color.

4. I had three hundred cooks to dress my victuals, in little convenient huts built about my house, where they and their families lived, and prepared me two dishes apiece. I took up twenty waiters in my hand and placed them on the table; a hundred more attended below on the ground, some with dishes of meat, and some with barrels of wine and other liquors slung on their shoulders, all which the waiters above drew up, as I wanted, in a very ingenious manner by certain cords, as we draw the bucket up a well in Europe.

5. A dish of their meat was a good mouthful, and a barrel of their liquor a reasonable draught. Their mutton yields to ours, but their beef is excellent. I have had a sirloin so large that I have been forced to make three bites of it; but this is rare. My servants were astonished to see me eat it, bones and all, as in our country we do the leg of a lark. Their geese and turkeys I usually ate at a mouthful, and I confess they far exceed ours. Of their smaller fowl I could take up twenty or thirty at the end of my knife.

6. One day his imperial majesty, being informed of my way of living, desired that himself and his royal consort, with the young princes of the blood of both sexes, might "have the happiness," as he was pleased to call it, "of dining with me." They came accordingly, and I placed them in chairs of state upon my table, just over against me, with their guards about them. Flimnap, the lord high treasurer, attended there likewise with his white staff; and I observed he often looked on me with a sour countenance, which I would not seem to regard, but ate more than usual, in honor to my dear country, as well as to fill the court with admiration.

7. I have some private reasons to believe that this visit from his majesty gave Flimnap an opportunity of doing me ill offices to his master. That minister had always been my secret enemy, though he outwardly caressed me more than was usual to the moroseness of his nature. He represented to

the emperor the low condition of his treasury; that he was forced to take up money at a great discount; that I had cost his majesty above a million and a half of *sprugs* (their greatest gold coin, about the bigness of a spangle); and, upon the whole, that it would be advisable in the emperor to take the first fair occasion of dismissing me.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE AUTHOR IS INFORMED OF A DESIGN TO ACCUSE HIM OF HIGH TREASON.

1. BEFORE I proceed to give an account of my leaving this kingdom, it may be proper to inform the reader of a private intrigue, which had been for two months forming against me.

I had hitherto, all my life, been a stranger to courts, for which I was unqualified by the meanness of my condition. I had indeed heard and read enough of the dispositions of great princes and ministers; but never expected to have found such terrible effects of them in so remote a country, governed, as I thought, by very different maxims from those in Europe.

2. When I was just preparing to pay my attendance on the emperor of Blefuscu, a considerable person at court (to whom I had been very serviceable, at a time when he lay under the highest displeasure of his imperial majesty) came to my house very privately at night, in a close chair, and, without sending his name, desired admittance. The chairmen were dismissed; I put the chair, with his lordship in it, into my coat-pocket; and, giving orders to a trusty servant to say I was indisposed and gone to sleep, I fastened the door of my house, placed the chair on the table according to the usual custom, and sat down by it. After the common salutations were over, observing his lordship's countenance full of concern, and inquiring into the reason, he desired I would hear him with patience in

a matter that highly concerned my honor and my life. His speech was to the following effect, for I took notes of it as soon as he left me:

3. "You are to know," said he, "that several committees of council have been lately called, in the most private manner, on your account; and it is but two days since his majesty came to a full resolution.

"You are very sensible that Skyresh Bolgolam (*galbet*, or high admiral) has been your mortal enemy, almost ever since your arrival. His original reasons I know not; but his hatred is increased since your great success against Blefuscu, by which his glory as admiral is much obscured. This lord, in conjunction with Flimnap the high-treasurer (whose enmity against you is notorious), Limtoc the general, Laleou the chamberlain, and Balmuff the grand justiciary, have prepared articles of impeachment against you, for treason and other capital crimes."

His lordship proceeds to inform Gulliver that a friend of high rank at court had advised his majesty not to put him to death, but had compromised matters by sentencing Gulliver to have both of his eyes put out, "that blindness is an addition to courage by concealing dangers from us." Gulliver now resolves to seek refuge in Blefuscu.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE AUTHOR MAKES HIS ESCAPE TO BLEFUSCU—HIS RECEPTION THERE.

1. ONCE I was strongly bent upon resistance for, while I had liberty, the whole strength of that empire could hardly subdue me, and I might easily with stones pelt the metropolis

1. Chief justice.

2. The original text gives in detail the articles of this absurd impeachment. It is a caustic satire on the trivial charges brought against Queen Anne's last cabinet by the Walpole administration.

to pieces; but I soon rejected that project with horror, by remembering the oath I had made to the emperor, the favors I had received from him, and the high title of *nardac* he conferred upon me. Neither had I so soon learned the gratitude of courtiers to persuade myself that his majesty's present severities acquitted me of all past obligations.

2. At last I fixed upon a resolution for which it is probable I may incur some censure, and not unjustly;¹ for I confess I owe the preserving of mine eyes, and consequently my liberty, to my own great rashness and want of experience; because, if I had then known the nature of princes and ministers, which I have since observed in many other courts, and their methods of treating criminals less obnoxious than myself, I should, with great alacrity and readiness, have submitted to so easy a punishment. But hurried on by the precipitancy of youth, and having his imperial majesty's license to pay my attendance to the emperor of Blefuscu, I took this opportunity, before the three days elapsed, to send a letter to my friend the secretary, signifying my resolution of setting out that morning for Blefuscu, pursuant to the leave I had got; and, without waiting for an answer, I went to that side of the island where our fleet lay.

3. I seized a large man-of-war, and tied the cable to the prow. Then, lifting up the anchors, I stripped myself, put my clothes (together with my coverlet, which I carried under my arm) into the vessel, and, drawing it after me, between wading and swimming, arrived at the royal port of Blefuscu, where the people had long expected me. They lent me two guides to direct me to the capital city, which is of the same name. I held them in my hands, till I came within two hundred yards of the gate, and desired them to signify my arrival to one of the secretaries, and let him know I there waited his majesty's command.

4. I had an answer in about an hour that his majesty, at-

1. Gulliver's defense of himself for escaping to Blefuscu is a covert apology for Bolingbroke's flight to France in 1715.

tended by the royal family and great officers of the court, was coming out to receive me. I advanced a hundred yards. The emperor and his train alighted from their horses, the empress and ladies from their coaches, and I did not perceive they were in any fright or concern. I lay on the ground to kiss his majesty and the empress's hands. I told his majesty that I was come according to my promise, and with the license of the emperor my master, to have the honor of seeing so mighty a monarch, and to offer him any service in my power, consistent with my duty to my own prince.

5. I did not mention my disgrace, because I had hitherto no regular information of it, and might suppose myself wholly ignorant of any such design; neither could I reasonably conceive that the emperor would discover the secret while I was out of his power; wherein, however, it soon appeared I was deceived.

I shall not trouble the reader with the particular account of my reception at this court, which was suitable to the generosity of so great a prince; nor of the difficulties I was in for want of a house and bed, being forced to lie on the ground, wrapped up in my coverlet.

CHAPTER XX.

THE AUTHOR SECURES A BOAT WHICH HAD DRIFTED NEAR THE ISLAND.

1. THREE days after my arrival, walking, out of curiosity, to the north-east coast of the island, I observed, about half a league off in the sea, something that looked like a boat overturned. I pulled off my shoes and stockings, and, wading two or three hundred yards, I found the object to approach nearer by force of the tide. I then plainly saw it to be a real boat, which I supposed might by some tempest have been driven from a ship; whereupon I returned immediately to-

wards the city, and desired his imperial majesty to lend me twenty of the tallest vessels he had left, after the loss of his fleet, and three thousand seamen, under the command of his vice-admiral.

2. This fleet sailed round, while I went the shortest way to the coast where I first discovered the boat. I found the tide had driven it still nearer. The seamen were all provided with cordage, which I had beforehand twisted to a sufficient strength. When the ships came up I stripped myself, and waded till I came within a hundred yards of the boat, after which I was forced to swim till I got up to it. The seamen threw me the end of the cord, which I fastened to a hole in the forepart of the boat, and the other end to a man-of-war; but I found all my labor to little purpose; for, being out of my depth, I was not able to work.

3. In this necessity I was forced to swim behind, and push the boat forward, as often as I could, with one of my hands; and the tide favoring me, I advanced so far that I could just hold up my chin and feel the ground. I rested two or three minutes, and then gave the boat another shove, and so on, till the sea was no higher than my arm-pits; and now the most laborious part being over, I took out my other cables, which were stowed in one of the ships, and fastened them first to the boat, and then to nine of the vessels which attended me.

4. The wind being favorable, the seamen towed, and I shoved, until we arrived within forty yards of the shore; and waiting till the tide was out, I got dry to the boat, and by the assistance of two thousand men, with ropes and engines, I made a shift to turn it on its bottom, and found it was but little damaged.

5. I shall not trouble the reader with the difficulties I was under, by the help of certain paddles, which cost me ten days making, to get my boat to the royal port of Blefuscu, where a mighty concourse of people appeared upon my arrival, full of wonder at the sight of so prodigious a vessel. I told the em-

peror that my good fortune had thrown this boat in my way, to carry me to some place whence I might return into my native country; and begged his majesty's orders for getting materials to fit it up, together with his license to depart; which, after some kind expostulations, he was pleased to grant.

6. I did very much wonder, in all this time, not to have heard of any express relating to me from our emperor to the court of Blefuscu. But I was afterward given privately to understand that his imperial majesty, never imagining I had the least notice of his designs, believed I was only gone to Blefuscu in performance of my promise, according to the license he had given me, which was well known at our court, and would return in a few days, when the ceremony was ended.

7. But he was at last in pain at my long absence; and after consulting with the treasurer and the rest of that cabal, a person of quality was despatched with a copy of the articles against me. This envoy¹ had instructions to represent to the monarch of Blefuscu the great lenity of his master, who was content to punish me no farther than with the loss of mine eyes; that I had fled from justice; and if I did not return in two hours, I should be deprived of my title of *nardac*, and declared a traitor. The envoy farther added, that in order to maintain the peace and amity between both empires, his master expected that his brother of Blefuscu would give orders to have me sent back to Lilliput, bound hand and foot, to be punished as a traitor.

1. This embassy from Lilliput is designed to satirize the frequent remonstrances made to the French court by the English ministers in consequence of the protection granted to the Jacobites.

CHAPTER XXI.

THE ANSWER OF THE EMPEROR OF BLEFUSCU; THE AUTHOR COMPLETES HIS PREPARATIONS AND SETS SAIL.

1. THE emperor of Blefuscu, after taking three days to consult, returned an answer consisting of many civilities and excuses. He said, that, as for sending me bound, his brother knew it was impossible; that although I had deprived him of his fleet, yet he owed great obligations to me for many good offices I had done him in making the peace. He added, that both their majesties would soon be made easy; for I had found a prodigious vessel on the shore, able to carry me on the sea, which he had given orders to fit up, with my own assistance and direction; and he hoped in a few weeks both empires would be freed from so insupportable an incumbrance.¹

2. With this answer the envoy returned to Lilliput, and the monarch of Blefuscu related to me all that had passed; offering me at the same time (but under the strictest confidence) his gracious protection, if I would continue in his service. But, although I believed him sincere, yet I resolved never more to put any confidence in princes or ministers, where I could possibly avoid it; and therefore, with all due acknowledgments for his favorable intentions, I humbly begged to be excused. I told him, that since fortune, whether good or evil, had thrown a vessel in my way, I was resolved to venture myself upon the ocean, rather than be an occasion of difference between two such mighty monarchs. Neither did I find the emperor at all displeased; and I discovered, by a certain accident, that he was very glad of my resolution, and so were most of his ministers.²

1. Gulliver's privations in Blefuscu refer to Bolingbroke's sufferings in France, when deprived of rank, fortune, and power.

2. This irony is directed against the jealousy with which Bolingbroke, during his exile, was regarded by the French ministers.

3. These considerations moved me to hasten my departure somewhat sooner than I intended, to which the court, impatient to have me gone, very readily contributed.⁸ Five hundred workmen were employed to make two sails to my boat, according to my directions, by quilting thirteen folds of their strongest linen together. I was at the pains of making ropes and cables, by twisting ten, twenty, or thirty of the thickest and strongest of theirs. A great stone that I happened to find, after a long search by the sea shore served me for an anchor. I had the tallow of three hundred cows, for greasing my boat and other uses. I was at incredible pains in cutting down some of the largest timber trees for oars and masts, wherein I was, however, much assisted by his majesty's ship-carpenters, who helped me in smoothing them, after I had done the rough work.

4. In about a month, when all was prepared, I sent to receive his majesty's commands, and to take my leave. The emperor and royal family came out of the palace, I lay down on my face to kiss his hand, which he very graciously gave me; so did the empress and the young princes of the blood. His majesty presented me with fifty purses of two hundred *sprugs* apiece, together with his picture at full length, which I put immediately into one of my gloves, to keep it from being hurt. The ceremonies at my departure were too many to trouble the reader with at this time.

5. I stored the boat with the carcasses of a hundred oxen and three hundred sheep, with bread and drink proportionable and as much meat ready dressed as four hundred cooks could provide. I took with me six cows and two bulls alive, with as many ewes and rams, intending to carry them into my own country, and propagate the breed, and to feed them on board. I had a good bundle of hay and a bag of corn. I would gladly have taken a dozen of the natives, but this was a thing

8. While Bolingbroke was in France, the French were in constant alarm lest he should involve them in war with England. They were therefore as anxious to get rid of him as the King of Blefuscu was to be rid of Gulliver.

the emperor would by no means permit; and, besides a diligent search into my pockets, his majesty engaged my honor not to carry away any of his subjects, although with their own consent and desire.

6. Having thus prepared all things as well as I was able, I set sail on the twenty-fourth day of September, 1701, at six in the morning; and when I had gone about four leagues to the northward, the wind being at south-east, at six in the evening I descried a small island, about half a league to the north-west. I advanced forward, and cast anchor on the lee-side of the island, which seemed to be uninhabited. I then took some refreshment, and went to my rest.

CHAPTER XXII.

THE AUTHOR RETURNS SAFE TO HIS NATIVE COUNTRY.

1. I SLEPT well, and, as I conjecture, at least six hours, for I found the day broke in two hours after I awaked. It was a clear night. I ate my breakfast before the sun was up; and heaving anchor, the wind being favorable, I steered the same course that I had done the day before, wherein I was directed by my pocket compass. My intention was to reach, if possible, one of those islands which I had reason to believe lay to the north-east of Van Diemen's Land.

2. I discovered nothing that day; but upon the next, about three in the afternoon, when I had by my computation made twenty-four leagues from Blefuscu, I descried a sail steering to the south-east: my course was due east. I hailed her, but could get no answer; yet I found I gained upon her, for the wind slackened. I made all the sail I could, and in half an hour she spied me, then hung out her ancient and discharged a gun. It is not easy to express the joy I was in, upon the

unexpected hope of once more seeing my beloved country, and the dear pledges I left in it.

3. The ship slackened her sails, and I came up with her between five and six in the evening, September 26; but my heart leaped within me to see her English colors. I put my cows and sheep into my coat pocket, and got on board with all my little cargo of provisions. The vessel was an English merchantman, returning from Japan by the North and South Seas; the captain, Mr. John Biddle, of Deptford, was a very civil man and an excellent sailor.

4. We were now in the latitude 30 degrees south; there were about fifty men in the ship; and here I met an old comrade of mine, one Peter Williams, who gave me a good character to the captain. This gentleman treated me with kindness, and desired I would let him know what place I came from last, and whither I was bound; which I did in a few words, but he thought I was raving, and that the dangers I had undergone had disturbed my head; whereupon I took my black cattle and sheep out of my pocket, which, after great astonishment, clearly convinced him of my veracity. I then showed him the gold given me by the emperor of Blefuscu, together with his majesty's picture at full length, and some other rarities of that country. I gave him two purses of two hundred *sprugs* each, and promised when we arrived in England to make him a present of a cow and a sheep.

5. I shall not trouble the reader with a particular account of this voyage, which was very prosperous for the most part. We arrived in the Downs¹ on the 13th of April, 1702. I had only one misfortune, that the rats on board carried away one of my sheep: I found her bones in a hole, picked clean from the flesh. The rest of my cattle I got safe ashore, and set them a-grazing in a bowling-green at Greenwich, where the fineness of the grass made them feed very heartily, though I had always feared the contrary; neither could I possibly have

1. A roadstead between the east coast of Kent and the Goodwin Sands; so named from the *dunes* or sand-banks between which it lies.

preserved them in so long a voyage if the captain had not allowed me some of his best biscuit, which, rubbed to powder, and mingled with water, was their constant food. The short time I continued in England I made a considerable profit by showing my cattle to many persons of quality and others; and before I began my second voyage, I sold them for six hundred pounds. Since my last return I find the breed is considerably increased, especially the sheep, which I hope will prove much to the advantage of the woollen manufacture by the fineness of the fleeces.


6. I stayed but two months with my wife and family, for my insatiable desire of seeing foreign countries would suffer me to continue no longer. I left fifteen hundred pounds with my wife, and fixed her in a good house at Redriff. My remaining stock I carried with me, part in money and part in goods, in hopes to improve my fortunes. My eldest uncle John had left an estate in land near Epping, of about thirty pounds a year, and I had a long lease of the "Black Bull" in Fetter Lane, which yielded me as much more; so that I was not in any danger of leaving my family upon the parish. My son, Johnny, named so after his uncle, was at the grammar-school, and a towardly child. My daughter, Betty (who is now well married, and has children), was then at her needle-work. I took leave of my wife and boy and girl with tears on both sides, and went on board the *Adventure*, a merchant ship of three hundred tons, bound for Surat, Captain John Nicholas, of Liverpool, commander. But my account of this voyage must be referred to the second part of my travels.²

"In Lilliput we behold a set of puny insects in human shape, ridiculously engaged in affairs of importance; in Brobdingnag the monsters of enormous size are employed in trifles. In the first voyage the ridicule and satire are directed mainly against *persons*; in the second they are aimed at *institutions*."—SIR WALTER SCOTT.

2 The second part of Gulliver's Travels describes his remarkable adventures in Brobdingnag, the land of giants, in which the little girl who took care of him was forty feet in height.

TEST QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW.

1. WHEN and where was Dean Swift born?
 2. Mention other famous authors born in Ireland.
 3. What can you tell of the privations of his early life?
 4. What education did Swift receive?
 5. To what noted man was he private secretary?
 6. What profession did he at last adopt?
 7. What was some of his first literary work?
 8. What were the famous Drapier letters?
 9. What was his object in writing the "Tale of a Tub"?
 10. What have you read of the two women, known as Stella and Venessa?
 11. What mean traits in his character were displayed in his treatment of these two women?
 12. With what noted men of his day did Swift associate?
 13. What was perhaps his most popular literary work, and on which his fame chiefly rests?
 14. Tell in a general way the subject of the four parts of "Gulliver's Travels."
 15. What parts proved the most popular, and for what reason?
 16. What is the exact title of the selection from Gulliver contained in this book?
 17. State in general the subject of this part of Gulliver's Travels.
 18. What was Swift's special object in writing it?
 19. Give in brief outline a sketch of political affairs in England at this time.
 20. Mention some of the leading men of that time who were satirized.
 21. Is this matter of satire of any special interest to the reader of to-day?
 22. Why has the work retained its popularity all these years?
 23. What can you say of the style in which it is written?
 24. Give some details about the last years of Swift's life.
 25. Mention some of the leading traits of his character.
 26. Describe some of his marked peculiarities.
 27. Can you mention a few of the many anecdotes about him which serve to illustrate his personal character?
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